



COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

**MAHALLA INITIATIVE PROJECT
FOR UZBEKISTAN**

QUARTERLY REPORT

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**The Counterpart Mahalla Initiative Program (MIP)
Fourth Quarterly Report: July – September 2000**

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I. Executive Summary

During the fourth quarter, the Mahalla Initiative Program (MIP) continued to provide opportunities for grassroots citizen empowerment and began implementing modifications recommended or developed during the June consultancy of Jane Yudelman. These include the localization of the grant review process, the introduction of community action planning and advanced training in PRA for selected local NGOs.

The MIP held one Grant Approval Committee (GAC) meeting in August in Tashkent. A total of nineteen grant applications were considered and twelve have been approved for funding representing all three regions of Nukus, Kokand and Bukhara.

Two orientation meetings for the members of the Local grant Review Committee (LGRC) were held in Nukus on July 19th and in Kokand on September 18th. The members were informed about the goals and objectives of MIP, the grant program and grant making process.

Two Local Grant Review Committee meetings were held in Bukhara on July 6th and September 6th, in Nukus on September 14th and in Kokand on September 22nd. A total of fourteen grant applications were reviewed by the LGRCs in the three regions and eleven were recommended to the Grant Approval Committee (GAC) in Tashkent for approval.

A presentation meeting was held in Fergana City in order to provide information about the MIP, its goals and objectives and future projects to local NGOs, representatives of mahalla committees and donor agencies working in the region.

Participatory Community Appraisal (PCA) training workshops were held in the three regions of Nukus, Kokand and Bukhara. Additional PCA research exercises were conducted by the local NGOs with the mahalla committees and communities in all the three regions.

In Fergana city, Nukus and Gidjuwan (Bukhara region), Community Action Plan (CAP) exercises were conducted with the help of local NGOs, mahalla committee and the community. The practical experience and feedback on the process of preparing CAPs will help in developing a new training module on the topic.

Training programs on the Counterpart modules of *NGO and Community*, *Project Design*, *Strategic Planning* and *Small Business Development* were conducted for the staff of NGOs and mahalla committee representatives.

II. Program Goals and Objectives

The goal of the MIP is:

To promote and provide opportunities for grassroots citizen empowerment, by establishing and strengthening linkages between NGOs and mahalla committees, and catalyze development of social partnership among these stakeholders.

The objectives are:

1. To increase the constituency for NGOs as acknowledged representatives of public opinion and effective partners with local communities in addressing self-defined community needs.
2. To foster the transformation of mahalla committees and other local administrative structures into effective two-way conduits for dialogue between citizens and government.
3. To establish sustainable collaborative linkages between NGOs and mahalla committees in the framework of Social Partnership.

III. Program Impacts

MIP Enables Development of Local Conflict Resolution Capacity

Family conflict, between spouses, in-laws or between parents and adult children, has become so prevalent in Uzbekistan that it has drawn the attention of President, I.A. Karimov. In his efforts to address this problem, the President instituted a “National Award for Best Mother-in-Law” under the governmental *For A Healthy Generation* program. The MIP is responding to this issue in the community of Bukhara through the Oydin Crisis Center.

Initially, the Crisis Center was approached by residents of Mahalla # 16 to help them resolve several family conflicts between in-laws, to which the Crisis Center responded with individual consultation. The Oydin Crisis Center employees realized this was a larger issue for the community and organized a Participatory Community Appraisal (PCA) research exercise in the makhalla with the help of the Bukhara Center for Culture and Information (BCCI) and the Counterpart NGO Support Center in Bukhara. The PCA exercise identified “family conflicts” as one of the community’s priority problems. The community action plan included a request for Oydin workers to provide training of counselors in family conflict resolution. The mahalla committee selected representatives from each street and apartment in the mahalla to be trained as counselors. The Oydin Crisis Center and representatives of the mahalla committee prepared a project proposal to jointly conduct training workshops, seminars and round tables on family conflict resolution, which received a grant through the Mahalla Initiative Program.

Under this project, the Oydin Crisis Center conducted counselor-training seminars for 22 residents of Mahalla # 16 and established a Family Conflict Resolution Center. The Center has helped resolve many family conflicts and also taken some preventive measures through initiating regular family visits and educating family members.

The Oydin Crisis Center also conducted a seminar on Family Conflict Resolution for the representatives of mahalla committees and organized a round table for the officials of the City Hokimiyat and representatives of local NGOs working in the mahallas of the city. Impressed by the results of the Crisis Center, the Hokimiyat officials requested similar seminars and training workshops in the mahallas of the city and other regions of Bukhara oblast and offered financial assistance and logistical support. Some of the attending NGOs have also requested similar programming from the Crisis Center.

Mahallas Address Women's Health through NGOs

The collaborative MIP efforts of NGOs and mahalla committees to address the health issues of women and children in several mahallas of Bukhara have encouraged other communities to take up similar activities incorporating NGOs and mahalla committees. The Hokim of Bukhara city approached the NGO *Oydin* with a request to conduct seminars on women's issues and assured all possible cooperation from the Hokimiyat.

NGO Capacity Building Leads to Funding from Private Sector

After attending the Nukus Support Center training on "NGOs and the Community" and receiving timely technical assistance in preparing necessary documents and encouragement from Nukus Counterpart staff, the local NGO Fitness Center *Kuuat* and the representatives of Makan Kenes # 15 and #20, received funds from the joint venture company *Udzunrobota*.

The grant from the joint venture company, totaling 230,000 sums, was utilized to purchase school books and stationary for 150 children of blind parents, and furthered the NGO and mahallas in their efforts to help the orphan and disabled children in the community. This type of partnership is particularly important since the government's social benefits program is not able to address the basic needs of food, clothes and books for such children.

IV. Activity Highlights

Mahalla Initiative Program (MIP) Presentation

One presentation meeting was held in Fergana City to provide information on MIP to the NGO community from the Fergana Valley, mahalla committees representatives, the Hokimiyat, relevant government officials and donor agencies based in the region. Journalists and representatives of local newspapers were also invited to this meeting.

This presentation was used to communicate the salient features of the MIP such as, the concept of participatory development methods, training programs for the capacity building of NGOs and mahalla committees, small grants program to address the needs of the communities and examples of joint efforts by NGOs and mahalla committees leading to social partnership. Practical experiences from the MIP projects being implemented in other regions were also shared with the participants.

Orientation for the Members of the Local Grant Review Committee (LGRC)

Two LGRC orientation meetings were held in the fourth quarter, in Nukus on July 19th and in Kokand on September 18th. Murali Mohan, Program Director and MIP Coordinator, Gulbahor Salimova facilitated the orientation meetings. The Support Center Coordinator and Mahalla Coordinator also participated in these meetings.

The orientation meetings were designed to help the outside members of the LGRCs better understand the goals and objectives of the MIP as well as to familiarize them with the grant making process and their roles and responsibilities in the LGRC. An LGRC information pack was distributed containing: Grant Review Process, Grant Program Guidelines, Grant Application Checklist, NGO and Mahalla Selection Criteria, and Grant Application Form.

The orientation meetings covered the following points: 1) Introduction to Counterpart consortium: Goals and Objectives, 2) Introduction to Mahalla Initiative Program: Goals and Objectives and 3) MIP Grant Program. The MIP Grant Program portion introduced the: grant making process, Grant Approval Committee (GAC), Local Grant Review Committees (LGRCs), Local Grant Review Committee (LGRC), Purpose and functions of LGRC, grant review process, and roles and responsibilities of LGRC members.

Local Grant Review Committee (LGRC) Meeting

The Local Grant Review Committees (LGRCs) began to function in July and to-date grant review meetings have been held in all the three target regions. During this quarter, two LGRC meetings were held in Bukhara, while Kokand and Nukus held their first LGRC meetings.

In the first LGRC meeting held in Bukhara on 6th July, the committee reviewed six grant applications and recommended four applications for approval by Grant Approval Committee (GAC), Tashkent. In the second meeting held on 6th September, six grant applications were reviewed. The committee recommended five applications for approval.

In Nukus, the first LGRC meeting was held on 14th September. The committee reviewed six grant applications and recommended four for approval. Kokand Support Center held the LGRC meeting on the 22nd September. The committee reviewed two grant applications and recommended both for approval by GAC, Tashkent.

Grant Approvals

The third MIP Grant Approval Committee (GAC) meeting was held in Tashkent on 17th and 18th June. Nineteen grant applications were considered and twelve of them were selected, four from each of the three regions. In addition to the 15 LGRC recommended proposals, the GAC approved four revised proposals from Kokand and Bukhara that had been previously deferred. See Attachment 1 for details.

Participatory Community Appraisal (PCA) and Training

PCA training workshops were conducted for NGO staff and mahalla committee representatives in Andijan (Fergana Valley) and Bukhara. PCA research exercises with the communities were conducted in all the three regions that have helped the NGOs and mahalla committees identify the needs of the communities and plan appropriate activities to be jointly implemented by them under the MIP. From July 14-16, a contract trainer and MIP Coordinator (Kokand) conducted a PCA training workshop in Andijan for the staff of three NGOs and representatives of Kurgan Tepa village council. The Program Director for MIP, was present for the training. There were a total of 17 participants at the workshop. The contents of the training and the methods introduced included:

Training topics	Methods
1. The Principles and Process of PCA	1. Problem identification & prioritization
2. Information sharing	2. Pie chart on income and expenditure
3. Behavior and attitude	3. Time lines
	4. Matrices
	5. Causes and consequences
	6. Seasonal calendars
	7. Venn diagram

The second PCA training workshop was conducted in Bukhara from August 26-28. Counterpart contract trainers and Support Center staff in Bukhara conducted this training for a total of 18 staff members of two NGOs – Association of Pediatricians and *Oydin* Crisis Center. The contents and methods introduced included:

Training topics	Methods
1. The Principles and Process of PCA	1. Problem identification & prioritization
2. Information sharing	2. Pie chart on income and expenditure
3. Behavior and attitude	3. Time lines
	4. Matrices
	5. Causes and consequences
	6. Venn diagram
	7. Daily schedules

A PCA exercise was conducted on July 16 in Kurgan Tepa Village, near Andijan city. Twenty women from the village council were present. The PCA team used the following tools to assess the situation in the village: problem identification and prioritization; income and expenditure on a pie chart; mapping; timelines; and causes and consequences.

At the end of the exercise, the community identified unemployment as the priority issue. The Business Women’s Association of Andijan, who have contacts in this village, will help this community prepare an action plan to address the problem and apply to the MIP small grants program.

Community Action Plan (CAP)

The Community Action Plan (CAP) tool has been added to the MIP as a result of the June consultancy of Jane Yudelman. The CAP is a long-term strategy for the community to solve its priority problems and address the identified needs, as well as an opportunity for support from government, business, industry and other sections of the civil society. The development of CAPs is the natural outgrowth of the ongoing participatory community appraisal process that will ensure a concrete strategy in place for the community to work on.

Tashkent staff field-tested the CAP process and framework through pilot CAP exercises in each of the three MIP target regions. Support Center Coordinators selected the NGO and a community for conducting these exercises. These exercises gave an opportunity to the SC staff receive hands-on experience in developing a CAP.

Region	NGO	Mahalla
Fergana Valley	Ishonch Center	Beruniy Mahalla
Nukus	Public Research Center	Makan Kenes # 31
Bukhara	Ibodullo N. Foundation	Kudre Village

Based on the experience and feedback from these pilot CAP exercises, a training module for preparation of CAPs will be developed and incorporated into the existing PCA training. Thus the existing PCA training will be expanded to incorporate the CAP process and become a PCAP (Participatory Community Appraisal and Planning) training rather than providing one training on PCA and one on CAP.

During the month of August and September, advanced PCA training workshops were held in Bukhara, Nukus and Fergana for the NGO representatives who have already participated in PCA training workshops and have practical experience of conducting research exercises with the communities. Lola Abdusalyamova (deputy director), support center coordinators and contract trainers conducted these workshops.

Date	Place	Participants
August 10 -12	Bukhara	20
August 24 - 26	Nukus	13
September 26 - 27	Fergana	18

The objectives of the advanced PCA training workshop were:

1. To help participants to learn/acquire facilitation and analysis skills;
2. To enhance their understanding of participatory methods and tools;
3. To help acquire skills in reporting writing on PCA research exercises;
4. To learn about preparations required for field research and/or working with the communities;
and
5. To help participants understand the role of a trainer and a facilitator and the difference between the two.

Following the conclusion of the advanced PCA training workshops in the three regions, participants will be selected for a TOT workshop on Participatory Community Appraisal and Planning (PCAP). This TOT workshop will be organized in Bukhara during October 2000.

Training Programs for NGOs and Mahalla Committees

A total of 107 NGO staff and representatives of mahalla committees, from Nukus, Karakalpakstan and Fergana Valley regions, participated in additional training courses provided by Counterpart contract trainers. These training programs were designed to enhance the understanding and skills of NGO staff and mahalla committee representatives and included the modules: *NGO and Community*; *Project Design*; *Strategic Planning*; and *Small Business Development*. Similar training programs will be conducted in coming months to additional NGOs and mahalla committees in the three regions.

See Attachment 2 for all training provided during Quarter Four.

V. Lessons Learned

Community Action Plans (CAPs) were developed in response to 1) the recognized need for better-designed proposals, noting community and Counterpart inputs, and 2) the desire to initiate the problem solving process allowing the community to follow-up on PCA-identified needs independently. The CAP is a simple, but effective way of helping the NGOs and mahalla committees to stimulate the community to think together, look ahead, collectively identify solutions to their problems and make efforts to address their needs by mobilizing resources from all possible sources.

As a result of the mid-term consultant's visit the MIP also made adjustments to its training plans to reflect the needs on the ground. This included scheduling a refresher course for active NGOs and developing a PCA training needs assessment for NGOs. In order to ensure that the community appraisal and action planning steps are linked, the MIP has also restructured its basic PCA training into a PCAP (Participatory Community Appraisal and Planning) workshop.

The first 12 months of the Mahalla Initiative Project have been focused on the development of participatory tools and community/NGO/mahalla committee mobilization. As the project enters its fifth quarter it will focus on refining and monitoring these tools and the process through which they are implemented.

Attachment #1: Grant recipients

NGO	City/ Mahalla	Project Title	Grant Amount in sums
Charity Fund <i>Atamakan</i> Nukus	Nukus	<i>Our Strength is our Unity</i>	991,000
Medical Education Center <i>Khamdard</i>	Kokand	<i>Healthy Life is a Proof of Health</i>	691,300
<i>ORZU</i> Club Bukhara	Bukhara	<i>Life with Hope</i>	531,935
Center for Educational Technologies <i>Bilim The</i> Nukus	Nukus	<i>Involving Community in Solving the Priority Problem of Drinking Water</i>	27,69,500
Center for Social and Economic Support for Women	Kokand	<i>To Provide Drinking Water to Mahalla # 15</i>	40,53,177
Federation of Karate	Nukus	<i>Healthy Generation in Mahallas</i>	763,000
<i>Birodar Shaharlar Markazi</i> Bukhara	Bukhara	<i>Green Bukhara</i>	437,800
Regional Center for Women and Youth <i>Ishonch</i> Fergana	Fergana, Beruni Mahalla	<i>You are not an Orphan</i>	20,31,400
Public Research Center, Nukus	Nukus	<i>Creation of Local Committee for Reasonable Use of Private Wells</i>	28,35,000
Association of Business Families, Bukhara	Bukhara, Mahalla #15	<i>Increasing the Qualification of Unemployed People in Mahalla # 15</i>	724,600
Foundation of Ibodullo Narzullaev, Gizduvan	Bukhata, Kudre Village	<i>Community Mobilization for Solving Problems of Kudre Village</i>	15,97,500
Jamila Foundation Kokand	Kokand	<i>Training the Parents of Disabled People</i>	710,000

Attachment #2: Training Matrix

#	Type of workshop	# of workshops	# of mahallas	# of participants
1	NGO and Community	4	8	44
2	Project Design	3	12	19
3	Strategic Planning	3	3	51
4	Financial Sustainability	1	7	16
5	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	1	1	13
6	Organizational Development	1	4	25
7	PCA	6	33	96
	Total:	19	37	264